

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14233 081945Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PM-05

SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00 /052 W

-----106921 081950Z /64

O 081922Z DEC 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5313

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 14233

BRUSSELS PASS USDEL SECRETARY

PARIS FOR MOOSE FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, NI

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CARVER VISIT TO MAPUTO

REF: SECTO 12009

1. AT STATE RECEPTION THIS EVENING FOR MACHEL I ASKED
GARBA, ALONG LINES REFTTEL, WHETHER HE AND/OR OBASANJO
WOULD BE WILLING URGE MACHEL TO SEE CARVER. GARBA SAID
'YOU KNOW HIM SO WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF.'

2. FORTUITOUSLY, MACHEL SUMMONED UK HICOM FALLE AND
ME A FEW MOMENTS LATER AND EMBARKED ON A GOOD-HUMORED
CRITIQUE OF ALLEGED ANGOLO-AMERICAN SLUGGISHNESS IN MOVING
THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM TO A SOLUTION. HE STRESSED
(UNCHARACTERISTICALLY?) THE NEED TO BRING THE FIGHTING
TO AN END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THE BRITISH AND
THE US COULD DO IT.

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3. THIS PROVIDED FALLE AND ME WITH OUR CHANCE TO TELL
MACHEL THAT DR. OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE VERY MUCH HOPED
HE WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE CARVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
PREFERABLY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS. MACHEL
REPLIED SOMEWHAT AIRILY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS
FROM CALLAGHAN AND CARTER ON THE MATTER AND WAS IN COMMUNICATION

WITH BOTH CAPITALS. HE TURNED SOMEWHAT MORE INTERESTED WHEN I NOTED THAT OWEN AND VANCE HAD TALKED ABOUT THIS TODAY IN BRUSSELS AND THAT I HAD RECEIVED THEIR MESSAGE JUST A FEW HOURS BEFORE COMING TO THE RECEPTION. I SAID CARVER VERY MUCH WANTED HIS VIEWS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. MACHEL RESPONDED WITH A REITERATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF STOPPING THE VIOLENCE.

4. COMMENT: ON BALANCE, FALLE AND I INTERPRET MACHEL'S RESPONSE AS BASICALLY AFFIRMATIVE. I ATTRIBUTE AT LEAST PART OF HIS GUARDED ATTITUDE TO THE GAGGLE OF AMBASSADORS THAT SURROUNDED US BY THE TIME WE GOT INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER (WE WERE SPEAKING IN FRENCH), AND THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE PRESS MICROPHONE LURKING NEARBY. THE NEXT STEP MIGHT BE PROMPT FOLLOW-UP BY UK AND US AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO. WE UNDERSTAND MACHEL RETURNS TO MAPUTO FROM HERE ON MONDAY BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HIS PLANS FROM THEN ONE. GIVEN GARBA'S ATTITUDE, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT FURTHER TO ENLIST OBASANJO'S INTERVENTION. I ANTICIPATE GARBA WILL MENTION IT TO MACHEL AND OBASANJO ANYWAY, AND I WOULD EXPECT OBASANJO TO SUPPORT THE MEETING EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS14233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770457-0172
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771278/aaaaconh.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db84b708-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SECTO 12009
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 311617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: CARVER VISIT TO MAPUTO
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, NI
To: BRUSSELS PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db84b708-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009